

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
February 21, 1962

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: David E. Finley
Felix W. de Weldon
Peter Hurd
Douglas W. Orr
William G. Perry
Michael Rapuano

L. R. Wilson, Secretary
Charles H. Atherton, Asst. Secretary
C.L. Martin, Counsel
Susan E. Bennett, Admin. Secy
Gilbert Halasz, Recorder

I. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency
Parcel 111a, Southwest Redevelopment Area C - Winning Design

✓ Mr. David Condon, architect, of the firm of Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon, and a representative of the Redevelopment Land Agency, outlined the features of his firm's design for the winning design of a complex of high rise apartments and town houses to be called "Carrollsborg Square." Parcel 111a is located between M and N Streets, S.W., and Delaware Avenue and Fourth Street, S.W.

Drawings and a scale model of the project were used to explain the various features. The members noted that the plan was quite similar to a project by the same architectural firm, on which the Commission commented favorably at its meeting on September 20, 1961.

The members of the Commission liked the character of the design, but noted that the shadows of the multi-storied buildings on the south and west sides of the project would cover the single family houses from sunshine, except during the early morning hours. They suggested that the feasibility of moving one of the taller buildings north of the single-family houses be studied by the architect.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter to the Redevelopment Land Agency setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT A

2. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission
Proposed Memorial to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

✓ The Honorable Francis Biddle, Chairman, and Mr. William F. Pederson, architect of the firm of Pederson and Tilney, met in open session with the

Commission of Fine Arts to learn the recommendations of the Commission on the proposed design. The Chairman stated that the Commission had completed its study of the design, which had been submitted in January. He noted that, after a month's intensive study of the design, the Commission unanimously agreed that it could not approve the design, and then read a statement drafted by the members on the previous day, after their conference with Mr. Pederson and his associates. Copies of the statement were distributed to the Press and other visitors.

Mr. Biddle responded by reading a statement thanking the Commission for its careful consideration of the winning design and expressing his disappointment that the Commission could not approve it. EXHIBIT B

II. DISCUSSION

After the department of the representatives of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Commission, the members met again in executive session and reviewed their action on the design for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, and discussed the order of business from the meeting on the previous day. The results of these discussions have been incorporated in the minutes of the previous session.

III. At 2:30 p.m., the members of the Commission went to the White House, where they were taken through the State Rooms and second floor rooms by the Chairman and the Chief Usher, Mr. Bernard West. The purpose of the visit was to see the way in which the rooms had been redecorated and re-finished under the guidance of Mrs. Kennedy's Fine Arts Committee for the White House. The members were pleased with the appearance of the rooms and the Chairman was authorized to send Mrs. Kennedy a letter expressing their approval. EXHIBIT C

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C. L. Martin
Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
21 February 1962

AM

9:30

1. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

2. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

th draft 9:35
✓ a. District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency

Model of Winning Design, Parcel 111a, Southwest
Redevelopment Area C

(Mr. David Condon, of Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon;
Mr. Stanley Sherman, Redevelopment Land Agency)

Hn drafted 10:00
✓ b. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission

(Honorable Francis Biddle, Chairman; Mr. William F.
Pederson, Architect; Mr. Norman Hoberman, Sculptor;
Mr. Joseph Wasserman, Associate)

LUNCH

PM

Hn drafted 2:30

✓ Tour of State Rooms of the White House

February 20, 1962

2 March 1962

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on February 21, considered the design which Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon have designed for the development of Parcel 111a, Southwest Urban Renewal Area, for single family houses and multi-story apartments.

Mr. David Condon explained the features of the project which was selected as the winning design in a competition held by the Redevelopment Land Agency. A scale model and drawings were used in the presentation.

The members of the Commission noted that this parcel of land adjoined, on the west, a project by the same architectural firm which had been previously reviewed by the Commission; and that the design of the two developments complimented each other. The members liked the general character of the arrangement of the buildings, but suggested that the apartment buildings on the south and west sides of the project might possibly diminish sunlight and air from the single-family units.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Neville Miller
Chairman
District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency
919 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

20th April 1942

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Committee at this time is in receipt of the report of the sub-committee on the subject of the development of the land in the area of the proposed airport. The sub-committee has recommended that the land should be reserved for the development of the airport and that the land should be reserved for the development of the airport and that the land should be reserved for the development of the airport.

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Yours faithfully,

W. H. Miller

W. H. Miller
Chairman

Mr. W. H. Miller
Chairman
Committee of the Council
Land Agency
219 York Street, N.Y.
Washington, D. C.

(Mr. Biddle's Statement)

February 21, 1962

I am sorry that the Commission of Fine Arts has seen fit to advise against the construction of the memorial to Franklin Roosevelt in accordance with the design of Pedersen & Tilney chosen by the Jury of Award as the winner in the national competition. From the beginning the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission has sought and acted on the best professional advice that could be obtained. The site was chosen by a committee of outstanding architects, which recommended a competition with prizes. Congress unanimously approved the site and the competition, and appropriated funds to pay the expenses of the competition. It was held under the direction of Edmund N. Bacon, executive director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, who worked in close cooperation with the American Institute of Architects and the several agencies of the Government that were involved. The jury who selected the winner was made up of five outstanding experts in the field. Their choice, out of 575 entrants, was recommended by the Institute. The Roosevelt Commission voted, nine to one, to approve the design. Three outstanding authorities in this field - Pietro Belluschi, Philip C. Johnson, and Douglas Haskell - testified before the Commission of Fine Arts last month:

Belluschi said: "This is the first monument where the expression is not derivative but really creative."

Johnson said: "We might want to view this as the most successful monument of the mid-century of my country."

Haskell said: "This is supremely a monument which fits into nature, lives with nature, uses nature. This (competition) is an extraordinarily successful thing...very professionally conducted - a revolutionary effort."

I think incalculable harm could be done by upsetting this kind of procedure.¶

I can hardly think that the action of the Commission of Fine Arts is calculated to encourage the Government hereafter to rely on the best architects they can obtain to plan and build public buildings.

I shall, after consulting the other members of the Commission, promptly report on the matter to Congress.

Francis Biddle

23 February 1962

Dear Mrs. Kennedy:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were very glad to accept your kind invitation to view the rooms at the White House at the time of their meeting here on February 21. They particularly appreciated your thoughtfulness in arranging for them to see the Monroe Room and the Lincoln Room on the second floor, as well as the State Rooms and the ground floor rooms.

They asked me to say that they were delighted with the appearance of the White House and particularly impressed with the restraint and dignity with which the decoration has been made. They were also most interested in seeing the many historic and beautiful pieces of furniture, as well as the paintings, which you have acquired for the White House in the last year. The members hope you will call on us for any assistance we can give, and with grateful appreciation of the work you are doing, I am

For the Commission of Fine Arts,

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mrs. John Fitzgerald Kennedy
The White House
Washington, D. C.

